

Serial No. 08/904,855

statements submitted earlier. Specifically, applicant filed with the PTO on October 14, 1997 a first Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), which was made part of a Preliminary Amendment and IDS. A copy of the IDS Form PTO-1449 (3 pages) as filed and the return postcard (stamped October 16, 1997 by PTO), acknowledging the PTO's receipt of the first IDS and copies of the references cited therein, is annexed hereto as Exhibit 1. In addition, applicant filed a Supplemental IDS with the PTO on February 4, 1998. A copy of the Supplemental IDS as filed and the return postcard (stamped February 6, 1998 by PTO), acknowledging the PTO's receipt of the Supplemental IDS and copies of the references cited therein, is annexed hereto as Exhibit 2. Applicant again requests that the Examiner make of record the listed references in the aforementioned IDSs if the Examiner has not done so.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 12, 54, 59-61, 65, 81, 86-88, 92-96 and 106-109 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Guenther. In response, applicant has amended base claims 1, 54, 60, 62, 65, 81, 87 and 89. Claims 7-12, 94, 95, 98-108 and 111-113 have also been amended to properly reference the amended base claims and/or to improve their form. Claims 114-133 have been cancelled. Applicant hereby reserves all rights to re-prosecute the cancelled claims in the future.

The invention is directed to a control and management system for use in a vehicle. Traditionally, a vehicle incorporates a multiplicity of discrete systems such as a climate control system, an audio system, an anti-lock brake system, a cruise control system, etc. These systems are individually controlled and managed by their own user interfaces including knobs, switches, buttons and displays.

As technology advances, more and more systems are being added to the vehicle. As a result, the control and management of all these systems in the vehicle become more unwieldy than ever. In accordance with the invention, the control and management system places the previously unrelated vehicle systems under centralized control, thereby coordinating their functions synergistically and allowing data sharing among the systems effectively. See page 6, line 11 of the specification.

The inventive control and management system includes, among others, a master control interface for the user to manage the vehicle systems and data in an efficient manner. For example, the master control interface may be used to graphically show on a display an engine compartment in the vehicle which includes components such as a radiator, a battery, a fuse box, an air cleaner, an oil compartment, an engine block, etc. In addition, information objects concerning such components are shown on the display. See Fig. 4. In accordance with an aspect of the invention, the relative positions of the displayed items correspond to those of the components represented thereby in the actual engine compartment. Knowing the relative positions of the components under the hood of the vehicle, the user can easily identify and select the displayed items to quickly access information concerning the corresponding components. For instance, when the displayed item representing a radiator is selected, information objects (e.g., options 391 and 392) relating to the radiator are highlighted or activated to provide, e.g., the readings of the current temperature and level of coolant in the radiator. See page 9, line 30 et seq. of the specification.

Guenther discloses an information system for use

Serial No. 08/904,855

in a motor vehicle. However, nowhere does Guenther teach or suggest the claimed invention where "a plurality of items and a plurality of information objects" are displayed, and "the displayed items [are] arranged on the display in substantially the same relation to one another as the components represented thereby in [an] engine compartment," as amended claim 1 now recites. A fortiori, nowhere does Guenther teach or suggest activating the "information objects corresponding to the component represented by the selected item to provide information concerning the component", as amended claim 1 further recites. As such, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Guenther. Nor is it obvious from reading same. Thus, amended claim 1, together with its dependent claims, is patentable over Guenther. Also patentable is amended claim 65, together with its dependent claims, as it contains limitations similar to those in amended claim 1.

Amended claims 54, 60 and 62 were discussed with the Examiner in the aforementioned personal interview. As stated in the Interview Summary, because of the newly added limitations therein, these claims are patentable over the cited art including Guenther, although claim 62 has been further modified to improve its form over the corresponding draft claim for discussion in the interview. Also patentable are their dependent claims by virtue of dependency thereof from amended claims 54, 60 and 62. Likewise, amended claims 81, 87 and 89, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over the cited art as they contain limitations similar to those in amended claims 54, 60 and 62, respectively.


The Examiner also rejected claims 7-11, 55, 58, 62, 63, 82-85, 89, 90, 97-105 and 110-129 under 35 U.S.C.

Serial No. 08/904,855

103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Guenther in view of Conway. According to the Examiner, Conway discloses a mechanism for determining a current location of a vehicle within a predetermined range of a locale. The Examiner postulated that it would have been obvious to incorporate the Conway mechanism into Guenther system to yield the inventive system. However, nowhere does Guenther or Conway teach or suggest the incorporation postulated by the Examiner. Even assuming, arguendo, that such an incorporation is valid, claims 7-11, 55, 58, 62, 63, 82-85, 89, 90, 97-105 and 110-113, are patentable over Guenther in view of Conway by virtue of their dependency of amended claims 1, 54, 60, 62, 65, 81, 87 and 89 which are patentable for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 1-12, 54-63, 65, 81-90 and 92-113, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,
Michael L. Obradovich

By 
Alex L. Yip, Attorney
Reg. No. 34,759
212-968-1300

Date: July 21, 1999
Enclosure -- Exhibits 1 and 2

Exhibit 1



COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS , BOX _____

Inventor-Case No. _____ M. L. Obradovich 2

Stamp of the USPTO acknowledging receipt is requested

1. Transmittal Letter - 3 pages
2. Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure
Statement , with enclosures - 21 pages
3. Information Disclosure Statement Form PTO-1449 - 3 pages
4. Copies of references
5. Check in the amount of \$2,298.00

Serial No. 08/904,855



C

Serial No. 08/904,855

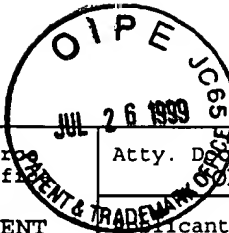
Michael L. Obradovich

Filing Date
August 1, 1997

Group

Date Considered

* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
(REV. 2-82) Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No. 08/904,855
Applicant: Michael L. Obradovich

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Filing Date August 1, 1997
Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Exam. Init.	Document No.							Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
CN	5	5	0	6	5	9	5	4-9-96	Fukano et al.	—	—	
CN	4	8	1	8	0	4	8	4-4-89	Moss	—	—	
CN	5	5	1	9	4	1	0	5-21-96	Smalanskas et al.	—	—	
CN	5	5	0	4	6	2	2	4-2-96	Oikawa et al.	—	—	
CN	5	4	9	7	2	7	1	3-5-96	Mulvanny et al.	—	—	
CN	5	4	8	6	8	4	0	1-23-96	Borrego et al.	—	—	
CN	5	4	0	0	0	4	5	3-21-95	Aoki	—	—	
CN	5	2	7	8	5	3	2	1-11-94	Hegg et al.	—	—	
CN	5	2	1	4	4	1	3	5-25-93	Okabayashi et al.	—	—	
CN	5	1	9	8	7	9	7	3-30-93	Daidoji	—	—	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

Document No.							Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translator Yes No	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

NC	⑦	L. Creasy, "Young at Art," <u>Automotive & Transportation Interiors</u> , May 1997, pp. 24-26 & 28.
NC	⑧	B. Stone, "Get Ready to Take a Back Seat to a Circuit Board," <u>Newsweek</u> , June 2, 1997, p. 10.
NC	⑨	J. Braunstein, "Airbag Technology Takes Off," <u>Automotive & Transportation Interiors</u> , August 1996, p. 16.
NC	⑩	I. Adcock, "No Longer Square," <u>Automotive & Transportation Interiors</u> , August 1996, pp. 38-40.
NC	⑪	I. Adcock, "Geneva gems blend function and design," <u>Automotive & Transportation Interiors</u> , May 1997, pp. 52, 54 & 55.
NC	⑫	J. Braunstein, "Safety Gets Smarter," <u>Automotive & Transportation Interiors</u> , May 1997, pp. 30-32, 36, 38, 40, 41 & 44.

Examiner C. N. Vukobratovic Date Considered 9/27/97

* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Serial No. 08/904,855

Applicant: Michael L. Obradovich

Group

[illegible][illegible]

NC	13	E. Lapham, "Buick experiments with hands-free driving," <u>Automotive News</u> , April 21, 1997, p. 60.
NC	14	E. Lapham, "It's not hard to get used to magnets doing the steering," <u>Automotive News</u> , April 21, 1997, p. 60.
NC	15	"Look, Ma, no hands!" <u>Autoweek</u> , Headliner, April 21, 1997, p. 6.

Date Considered

* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Exhibit ~

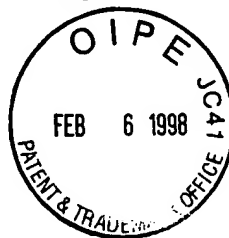
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS , BOX _____

Inventor-Case No. _____ M. L. Obradovich 2 _____

Stamp of the USPTO acknowledging receipt is requested

1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement - 1 page
2. Information Disclosure Statement Form PTO-1449 - 4 pages
3. Copies of Listed References

Serial No. 08/904,855



C

Serial No. 08/904,855

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Inventor M. L. Obradovich

Case 2

Serial No. 08/904,855

Examiner:

Filing Date August 1, 1997

Group Art Unit: 2763

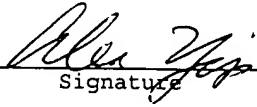
Title Centralized Control and Management
System for Automobiles

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 4, 1998.

Alex L. Yip
Attorney Name

34,759
Registration No.


Signature

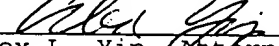
February 4, 1998
Date of Signature

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant brings to the Examiner's attention additional references listed on the attached Information Disclosure Statement Form PTO-1449 (4 pages), and encloses herewith a copy of each listed reference. It is respectfully requested that the listed references be made of record in the application.

Respectfully,
Michael L. Obradovich

By 
Alex L. Yip, Attorney
Reg. No. 34,759
718-297-8182

Date: February 4, 1998
Enclosures

C

Paper #3

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
(REV. 2-82) Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.
Obradovich 2

Serial No.
08/904,855

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Michael L. Obradovich

Filing Date
August 1, 1997

Group
2763

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Exam. Init.	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
CN	5 6 5 0 9 2 9	7-22-97	Potter et al.			
CN	5 6 2 7 5 4 7	5-6-97	Ramaswamy et al.			
CN	5 6 9 1 6 9 5	11-25-97	Lahiff			
CN	5 6 6 6 1 0 2	9-9-97	Lahiff			
CN	5 5 5 3 6 6 1	9-10-96	Beyerlein et al.			
CN	5 2 1 4 7 0 7	5-25-93	Fujimoto et al.			
CN	5 5 5 5 1 7 2	9-10-96	Potter			
CN	5 5 3 9 8 6 9	7-23-96	Spoto et al.			
CN	5 5 3 4 8 8 8	7-9-96	Lebby et al.			
CN	5 5 2 8 4 9 6	6-18-96	Brauer et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

	Document No.	Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translation Yes No
CN	9 7 / 1 3 6 5 7	4-17-97	WIPO			
CN	0 7 7 1 6 8 6	5-7-97	European Patent Appl.			
CN	4 4 3 1 0 7 0	3-7-96	Germany			X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

CN	M. Krebs, "Cars That Tell You Where to Go," <u>The New York Times</u> , December 15, 1996, section 11, page 1.
CN	L. Kraar, "Knowledge Engineering," <u>Fortune</u> , October 28, 1996, pp. 163-164.
CN	S. Heuchert, "Eyes Forward: An ergonomic solution to driver information overload," <u>Society of Automobile Engineering</u> , September 1996, pp. 27-31.

Examiner

C. N. O'Brien

Date Considered

9/28/97

* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

C

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
(REV. 2-82) Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.
Obradovich 2

Serial No.
08/904,855

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Michael L. Obradovich

Filing Date
August 1, 1997

Group
2763

--Continued--

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Exam. Init.	Document No.								Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
PC	5	5	2	5	9	7	7		6-11-96	Suman	/	/	
PC	5	4	9	3	6	5	8		2-10-96	Chiang et al.	/	/	
PC	5	4	8	3	6	3	2		1-9-96	Kuwamoto et al.	/	/	
PC	5	4	7	5	3	9	9		12-12-95	Borsuk	/	/	
PC	5	4	3	2	9	0	4		7-11-95	Wong	/	/	
PC	5	3	5	1	0	4	1		9-27-94	Ikata et al.	/	/	
PC	5	3	3	5	2	7	6		8-2-94	Thompson et al.	/	/	
PC	4	5	3	6	7	3	9		8-20-85	Nobuta	/	/	
PC	5	5	5	9	5	2	0		9-24-96	Barzegar et al.	/	/	
PC	5	4	9	7	3	3	9		3-5-96	Bernard	/	/	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

Document No.								Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translator Yes No	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

C. NQUEN

Date Considered

9/23/99

* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

C

* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
(REV. 2-82) Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.
Obradovich 2

Serial No.
08/904,855

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Michael L. Obradovich

Filing Date
August 1, 1997

Group
2763

--Continued--

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Exam. Init.	Document No.							Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
PC	5	0	4	3	7	3	6	8-27-91	Darnell et al.	/	/	
PC	5	5	2	8	2	4	8	6-18-96	Steiner et al.	/	/	
PC	5	4	0	4	4	4	3	4-4-95	Hirata	/	/	
PC	5	2	7	4	5	6	0	12-28-93	LaRue	/	/	
PC	5	4	4	2	5	5	3	8-15-95	Parillo	/	/	
PC	5	5	5	5	5	0	2	9-10-96	Opel	/	/	
PC	4	8	2	7	5	2	0	5-2-89	Zeinstra	/	/	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

Document No.							Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translator Yes No	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

C. NGUYEN

Date Considered

9/27/99

* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

C